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Message Text

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50
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 /011 W
---------- 039449
P R 261530 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8360
INFO USIA WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: SCUL, UR
SUBJ: LECTURER EXCHANGE

REF: A) MOSCOW 4624, B) STATE 069604, C) STATE 073566.

1. IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO MFA CULTURAL RELATIONS DIVISION INTERCESSION MHE INVITED ACTG. CAO FOR MEETING APRIL 26. EMBASSY AND MFA PRODDING NOTWITHSTANDING, NEW HEAD OF SECTION FOR CAPITALIST COUNTRIES A. S. SEMYONOV REPORTED THAT " THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS UNABLE TO GIVE YOU A RESPONSE AT THIS TIME." THERE FOLLOWED A SERIES OF SPECIOUS AND UNIMAGINATIVE EXCUSES, FOCUSING ON THE FACT THAT MOST OF OUR CANDIDATES WERE UNKNOWN TO THE SOVIET INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND IT WAS DIFFICULT THEREFORE TO GET THE LATTER TO ACCEPT THEM. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT IN A SERIES OF TELECONS WITH MATYUNIN AND ALEKSEYEV (BOTH PRESENT) OVER A FIVE- WEEK PERIOD HE HAD REGULARLY VOLUNTEERED HIS WILLINGNESS ANSWER QUESTIONS AND MEET MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES ANY TIME TO HELP RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES. PROBLEMS IN SELECTING SOVIET CANDIDATES ALLEGEDLY BASED PARTLY ON FACT THAT U. S. SIDE HAD REQUESTED SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS BUT HAD IDENTIFIED THEM POORLY, THUS FORCING THE MINISTRY TO DO A DETECTIVE JOB IN SEEKING OUT WHOM THE US SIDE REALLY WANTED, AND THEN TRYING TO FIND CANDIDATES WHO WOULD ACCEPT THE POSITIONS IN THE US.

2. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT WHATEVER THE DIFFICULTIES MAY HAVE BEEN, THE OPERATIONAL FACT NOW FACING US WAS THAT
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UNLESS WE HAD RESPONSE BY END THIS WORK WEEK, WE WOULD NOT ONLY LOSE SOME OF THE AMERICAN CANDIDATES BUT ALSO SOME OR ALL OF THE AVAILABLE POSITIONS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES FOR THE AS YET UNIDENTIFIED SOVIET CANDIDATES. SEMYONEV INSISTED THAT MINISTRY WOULD MEET THIS FINAL DEADLINE, EVEN IF WITH ONLY A PARTIAL RESPONSE, ADDING THAT IN CASE OF PROF. MUAN (REFTEL C) HE WAS POSITIVE THERE WAS NO QUESTION REGARDING ACCEPTANCE, BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY INVITED. UNFORTUNATELY, THE OFFICIAL RESPONSE HAD TO WAIT. AS FAR AS PROF. BRIDGMAN (REFTEL C) WAS CONCERNED, THE MINISTRY DIDN' T BELIEVE HE WAS BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME IN ANY CASE, AS HE HAD ONLY BEEN PROPOSED AS AN " ADDITIONAL" CANDIDATE. EMBOFF DEMURRED THAT BRIDGMAN AND SHOVER HAD BEEN SUBMITTED AS THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH CANDIDATES IN LARGE PART AS RESULT DEP. MIN. SOFINSKIY' S ASSURANCES DURING HIS TRIP THAT EIGHT CANDIDATES WOULD BE ACCEPTED. (FYI IT APPEARS FROM THIS AS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH POSITIONS WILL BE FILLED, TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT OTHERS. EMBASSY FEELS PROF. BRIDGMAN SHOULD BE ADVISED MAKE OTHER PLANS. MHE APPEARED TOTALLY INDIFFERENT TO HIS CANDIDACY. END FYI)

3. TONE OF MEETING CORDIAL, IF OCCASIONALLY TENSE. MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES APPEARED PARTICULARLY DEFENSIVE ABOUT THEIR FAILURE. EMBASSY FEELS THAT AT LEAST PARTIALLY AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE OUR CANDIDATES, AND PARTIAL LIST SOV CANDIDATES WILL BE FORTHCOMING AT LATEST BY APRIL 28. THIS SOVIET AND EMBASSY WORK DAY BECAUSE OF APPROACHING MAY HOLIDAYS.

4. OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED RELATED TO IREX EXCHANGES FOLLOW SEPTEL.
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